

## Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9310

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 0661

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PINR, HO

SUBJ: GOH NAMES NEW NATIONAL AGRARIAN INSTITUTE DIRECTOR

1. THE GOH HAS JUST ANNOUNCED THAT ARMY LT. COL. MARIO MALDONADO MUNOZ WILL SUCCEED MARIO PONCE AS DIRECTOR OF INA, THE NATIONAL AGRARIAN INSTITUTE. INA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE NEW GOH AGRARIAN REFORM LAW. PONCE HAD HELD THE POSITION FOR TWO YEARS.

2. IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN LA PRENSA FEBRUARY 18 MALDONADO CLAIMED FULL SUPPORT FROM THE MILITARY AND CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ. HE PROMISED TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL CLASSES AFFECTED BY THE EXECUTION OF AGRARIAN REFORM AND SEVERAL TIMES MENTIONED THAT HE SUPPORTED THE LAW'S INTENT OF CREATING SOCIAL JUSTICE WHILE INCORPORATING MORE HONDURANS INTO THE ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE COUNTRY.

3. ACCORDING TO TIEMPO AND LA PRENSA MALDONADO IS 35 AND MARRIED. HE ENTERED THE ARMY IN 1957 AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF THE HONDURAN MILITARY ACADEMY. HE IS THE FIRST LIEUTENANT COLONEL TO HOLD MINISTERIAL RANK. HE TOOK A DEGREE IN LAW AT THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF MADRID AND TOOK A COURSE IN AGRARIAN REFORM IN PERU. HIS MILITARY COURSES INCLUDE ARTILLERY STUDIED IN THE CANAL ZONE AND STAFF AND COMMAND STUDIES AT THE

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CHRILLOS MILITARY SCHOOL IN PERU. HIS PAST POSITIONS

INCLUDE INTERNAL SECURITY OFFICER, G-4 AND QUARTERMASTER  
IN THE INFANTRY BRIGADE, AND DIRECTOR OF THE GENERAL  
PENITENTIARY.  
SANCHEZ

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## Message Attributes

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